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Approved For Release 2002/08/06 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000100190008-2

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

23 June 1967

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1. The Air Force has proposed to DIA a (see copy of memo from General Thomas) number of major revisions in the Monthly Bombing Appraisal. I believe [ ] in DIA is prepared to resist these proposals as far as the Monthly is concerned but he believes that DIA probably should (or will eventually be forced to) put out a quarterly report incorporating many of the recommendations of the Air Force for an expanded appraisal of ~~all~~ air operations in Southeast Asia.

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2. [ ] is interested in our reactions to (1) the Air Force proposals, and (2) the idea of putting out in addition to the Monthly a joint quarterly that supposedly would be more attune to the Air Force's recommendations.

3. My reactions are as follows:

a. The Monthly is designed to satisfy the Secretary's requirements and obviously no major changes should be made unless Mr. McNamara directs us to do so. In addition, many of the criticisms of the Monthly are not justified. We do take into account attacks on non-JCS targets and we do make use of all relevant collateral reporting.

b. I don't believe we should get involved in putting out a quarterly with DIA. We are already doing much of the analysis the Air Force wants in our McNamara reports, although it is clear our conclusions are not what the Air Force is searching for. If we joined with DIA in a quarterly, we would lose our freedom of independent judgement and our experience in trying to coordinate the MAC IV report make it clear that we would have all kinds of messy problems and constant delays in reaching a consensus.

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4. My recommendation is that we draft a short memo to [ ] indicating that we are not in favor of changing the format to the Monthly and that other commitments would make it impossible for us to participate in an expanded joint quarterly with DIA.

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[ ]  
Chief, Special Projects

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